

them; where the branches rested on the ground, they rooted at the joints, and the glowing flowers rested on the grass, and from the grass to the top of the plant there were flowers continually from July until a November frost laid them low. Grand as was this plant, with its profusion of superbly beautiful flowers, there were other Dahlias in the splendor of whose rich, dark beauty my soul delighted. Among them is Mrs. Tracy, sent to me from California, in the long ago. The style of growth of this plant is similar to the preceding, the flowers are large, very full, with crowded petals; some of the petals are pointed, some rounding and others notched, all are broad. The color is a rich, glorious, crimson, flushed purple, with center of flower almost black. A superb flower. Sidney Hollins comes next, on my list, in this array of beauty, a double quilled flower, with buds dark as night, opening to a deep, dark crimson. An exceedingly fine flower; too well-known to need description. I presume, that in some of the catalogues it is listed as a Cactus Dahlia, and that reminds me that Cactus Dahlias are on the high road to favor, and no wonder, for they are marvels of beauty. I rejoice in the possession of three which in beauty of form and color, can scarcely be excelled. These are "Kenneth," a pure vermillion. Mrs. Peart, snowy white, and one a delicate, light yellow, of which I do not know the name. I am charmed with them all.

A few years since, it was almost, if not quite, impossible to get a perfect white Dahlia. Almost invariably the center would be a hard, greenish core, or the flower would not be fully developed. I gave up trying to get one that would prove satisfactory, and discarded them all with the exception of the Pompon Dahlia, "Guiding Star," which was perfect and a most profuse bloomer.

Now, I can count seven or more white Dahlias in my collection, that are absolutely perfect, though each differs from the others in many respects. To say that I was in an ecstasy of delight over them is drawing it mild indeed.

A Dahlia sent me as pure white, was labeled the "Grand Duke Alexis," and was, I think, misnamed. I looked over several of the leading floral catalogues for the Grand Duke Alexis. In one it was described as pure, soft white, the tips of the petals edged and suffused with delicate pink.

Another catalogue described it simply as white shaded soft lavender. Another, as Ivory-white with a faint tinge of rose at the extremity of the petals. And in still another, it was ivory-white, petals tubular, sufficiently open to show a faint tinge of blush-pink, and so on, and very good. So I came to the conclusion that the Dahlia sent me as the Grand Duke Alexis, was not the Grand Duke Alexis, but a Dahlia infinitely superior, in many ways, and one with which I am charmed beyond measure. This Dahlia grew tall and straight, and symmetrical, seven feet tall, with beautiful branches and foliage. The flowers excelling, by far, the others, in elegance and grace; were large, and double to the center, and white as the mountain snow; superlatively white without the first faint tint of color. The incurved petals are thin in texture with a crimped appearance like those of the Crepe Myrtle. The flowers grew on long, erect stems, often there were two or three flowers and buds on the same stem. I have given this incomparably beautiful Dahlia a more appropriate name, and we now know it as the Frost King.

Were I to expatiate on the merits and beauty of my white Dahlias, it would require more time than I have now at my disposal. However, I will mention Mrs. Tait as tall, straight and symmetrical as the preceding, resembling it, also in minor details, with flowers large, full and double to the center; though differing from it in style of petals, those of Mrs. Tait were long, curiously twisted; with edges lacinated similar to those of the Elk-Horn Chrysanthemum. A word must be said in favor of Penelope, this is

an exceedingly floriferous Dahlia. Flowers medium size, perfect, dark quilled, flushed lavender, though perfectly white when grown in the shade.

There were three purple-flowered Dahlias in my collection, Claribel, Challenge, and Baron Schroeder. These flowers were in all respects fine, save the color, the first, described in catalogue as of a rich, royal purple, proved to be a dull color, indeed; the other two were of a faded purple, decidedly so.

The variable Dahlia, with white and red petals intermingled, "Uncertainty," was attractive to some persons. "Jarosky," proved to be equally as interesting, a most profuse and constant bloomer; flowers medium size and double, with colors ranging through many shades of yellow, orange, red, and white; the colors arranged in an infinite variety of ways sometimes a flower would be self-colored, while others on the same stem would be varied with two or more colors, or perhaps with all of them.

One season I succeeded admirably with Dahlias grown from seed. Most of them were single and exceptionally fine. One of these I admired greatly. The flower was large, single, with golden center, the five petals were broad, velvety, and of the most vivid scarlet. I named this Dahlia Helen, in honor of a dear young lady who was visiting us that summer, and who expressed great admiration for this flower.

I cannot resist the inclination to tell of another of my single seedlings. This had a bright golden center. The broad petals were velvety, and black, intensely black, and the flowers were fragrant with the fragrance of the sweet violets.

The Dahlia Tomossissima Picta, has large semi-double flowers with petals of a pure scarlet with a buff stripe down the center of each. This is a thrifty grower and profuse bloomer. The Dahlias, Prince of Darkness, Prince of Orange, and Wm. Agnew (the last mis-named), one of the same size, style, and shape, each double with a yellow disk and long and recurring petals. The Prince of Orange is of a dull, buff color, not at all pretty.

Wm. Agnew has irregular petals, velvety, of rich, glowing scarlet. Worth having for its color alone.

I fear I cannot do justice to the "Prince of Darkness," it is unrivaled for richness of color. It is superb; velvety petals of a rich, glowing crimson flushed with a lustrous blackness.

Mrs. Hawkins excels as a fine, large plant, with a lavish growth of foliage, and large flowers measuring fully eight inches across the base, the flowers are loose-petaled of a pale Primrose yellow, flushed lilac.

In my opinion the pink Dahlias, Nymphaea, and A. D. Livoni are over-extended. I bought them of florists, and received them in exchange, and I was disappointed in them all.

From a dear friend, I received a Dahlia tuber un-named. This was a fine tuber, three inches long, with two sprouts just starting, one each side of the stalk; so, I split the tuber lengthwise, so that each half had a bit of the stalk with the sprout, these I started, each in a four-inch pot, and when the sprouts were six inches high, set them in the ground where they grew apace until five feet high, forming handsome plants. The flowers were medium size, double, with wax-like petals, which were of a soft, snowy-white, tipped and flaked with a clear, soft yellow, shading to a lovely pink. The flowers on the same plant were varied; sometimes one would be all white; another all white except one or two of the outer rows of petals which would be yellow, forming a flower of the most exquisite loveliness. Again another would be of a pale, golden yellow, with the lower rows of petals white, sometimes the flowers would be varied pink and white, but, however, varied these lovely petals were, they were always in symmetrical, or regular rows, often a flower would be all pink, or all yellow. It were vain for me to attempt to convey an idea of these waxen flowers. I only know that they are lovely be-

yond the telling. One of these plants is called Una, the other is called Uma. Una is in honor of the lady who so kindly sent me the tuber, and as these plants are twins it is only fair that their names should harmonize.

I wish you could have seen that bed of Dahlias at the foot of the garden, when in full bloom. The Dahlias along the center of the bed were fully eight feet tall, those along each side were not near so tall, they leaned against the central rows, and many of the branches reposed on the grass; here, indeed was a mass of multi-colored flowers, from the grass up. There were shades, and tones, and semi-tones of color; enough to set a lover of color wild with delight.

Those clumps of Dahlia tubers that laid on the ground by the kitchen, sent roots down into the ground, and sent branches upward; and bloomed, and bloomed until frost came. Most of the branches leaned over, and where the joints touched the ground, they rooted and formed nice tubers.

My Dahlias attracted much attention, and from all who saw them elicited unqualified admiration.

Ada Gist.  
Mason Co., W. Va., March 12, 1906.

#### Florida Vs. California Oranges.

The editor of the Fruit Grower, said in his last number:

The quality of oranges this season has been very poor, as a rule. Not for many years has there been so much complaint, on this score. Florida oranges, after they have finally ripened, have been much better than the California fruit.

#### Silent Waters Run Deep.

Within the silent heart oft lie  
Deep wells of hidden love,  
That are not seen by careless eye,  
By many not dream'd of.

The silent waters oft are deep,  
Yet make no murmur'ing hoarse,  
And in their depth the shadows sleep,  
As they glide on their course.

We often think the silent man  
Is selfish, stern and cold;  
And yet, we but misunderstand  
The heart of purest gold.

We cannot see the inmost heart,  
Nor can we always know  
The wealth and sweetness, or a part  
Of life's faint, hidden glow.

Who has not seen the tender joy  
Break from a silent soul?  
The gladness, with no base alloy—  
The tenderness unfold?

Sometimes the one who makes a show  
Of love's most sacred shrine,  
Will be the first to let love go,  
And mock its joy divine.

Then censure not the one, I pray,  
Who holds his love too pure,  
To prate of it each passing day,  
And yet his love is sure.  
Emma Tharp Hale.

When we read that Manatee people are selling celery at the railroad station for \$2.25 per crate, and recall the fact that it is a mighty trifling man and boy that can't produce a thousand crates of good celery in a season, we are more than ever convinced that Florida is the land of promise and performance.—Tampa Times.

Jensen, Fla., Nov. 16, 1904.  
E. O. Painter, Esq.:  
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